GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:109
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
SETTING UP OF REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES FOR FARMERS
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps envisaged to revitalize the extension services in States;

(b) whether the Government would consider supporting the setting up of regional/district agriculture training centres for farmers and extension works by funding through a special programme for the purpose;

(c) if so, whether the States spend a large amount on salaries of extension personnel but they lack infrastructure which has reduced the effectiveness of the extension services;

(d) if so, the remedial steps the Government proposes to take;

(e) whether a special central scheme is being considered in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Though Agricultural extension is a State subject, the Ministry of Agriculture has taken a number ofsteps; the details are given in the Annex.

(b) A State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) has been/is beingestablished in each of the 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra,Orissa, Punjab and Jharkhand under Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of WorldBank aided National Agricultural Technology Project(NATP) for improving technical and management competency of senior/middle level functionaries. A system for Information supports to the farmers is also being established. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 261 Krishi VigyanKendras (KVKs) at district level.ICAR also is re-mandating 53 Zonal Research Stations (ZRSs) to takeup functions of KVKs.The activities of KVKs include technology validation/refinement, front line demonstrations and training of farmers and extension functionaries.

(c) Yes Sir,

(d) As indicated in Annex.

(e) Yes Sir. A Re-structured Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Support to the States` extensionefforts and reforms is proposed to be operationalised during Xth Plan (2002-2007).

(f) The proposed Centrally Sponsored Scheme envisages revamping the extension service to makeit pluralistic, multi-agency system, harnessing the strengths of public sector, private sector, media and information technology. Further, it proposes innovative and decentralized institutional arrangements with greater emphasis on group approach, farmer participatory methodologies, and bottom-up/ strategic planning procedures, making the system more demand-driven and farmer-accountable. These reform measures in agricultural extension are proposed to be operationalised during Xth Plan (2002-07) through `State-Extension-Work-Plan (SEWP).

ANNEX

Details of Steps taken with a view to revitalize agricultural extension services.

- A Policy Framework for Agricultural Extension has been formulated.It envisages revamping extension service, to make it pluralistic,

multi agency system harnessing the strengths of public sector, private sector, media and information technology. Further it proposes innovative and decentralised institutional arrangements with greater emphasis on group approach, farmer participatory methodologies, bottom-up/stragetic planning procedures making the system demand driven and farmer accountable. The reforms in agricultural extension are proposed to be operationalized during Xth Plan through State Extension Work Plans.

- Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) Component of the World Bankfunded National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) is being pilot testedin 7 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand,Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab wherein new institutional arrangements and innovative approaches are being applied in technology dissemination process.

- A Central Sector Scheme on `Human Resource Development in Horticulture' is in operation through State Departments of Horticulture/Agriculture and theselected State Agriculture Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc. forconducting training programmes for Departmental staff, Supervisors, Entrepreneurs and Gardeners.

- Animal Husbandry Extension Programme, a centrally sponsored scheme, isbeing implemented to cater to the needs of promoting Animal Husbandry activities in the States.

- Central Sector Scheme, Women in agriculture and Externally (Denmark, Dutchand UNDP) Aided Farm Women support programmes have been implemented with a view to improve extension services for farm women.

- Farm Information Communication efforts are being augmented by providingsupport to the States/State Agricultural Universities for promoting vernacular/ electronic media, production of agricultural films and organization of kisan melas/exhibitions. Farmers exposure visits, interface with the scientists, NGOs and Farmers Organizations are also being supported.

- The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concept is being promoted through 26Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) located in 22 States and 1 Union Territory for capacity building of extension functionaries and farmers.